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Arkansas Forestry Association

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October 20, 2005

Frank Wilson
President
Rison

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Randy Crowder
Vice President
Camden

RE: **IB Docket No. 05-221**

Dear Chairman Martin:

Glenn Gray
Secretary
Crossett

I am writing on behalf of the Arkansas Forestry Association in regard to the potential expansion of broadband coverage in rural areas of our country. It is our hope that the commission will put a strong emphasis on this issue, which will provide such areas with better access to communications and emergency assistance.

Miles Lacy
Treasurer
Morrilton

It is our understanding that technology exists which will allow cell phones to receive a signal from either a cell tower or a satellite. In order to overcome the high cost typically associated with mobile satellite systems, we are looking forward to the availability of advanced hybrid satellite/terrestrial systems. Such networks allow a cell phone user to use a cell phone on existing cell towers or to use a satellite network if the cell phone network is inoperative. This assures virtually every location in the U.S. will receive broadband access, especially rural and underserved areas.

J. Kelly Robbins
Executive VP

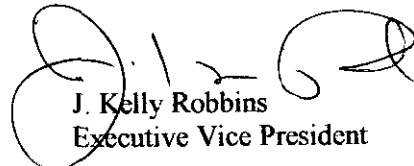
Not only could this approach allow for communications to and from virtually any outdoor location, it could also allow first responders to have an affordable, redundant and interoperable communications system so crucial to homeland security.

Executive Committee

Aubra Anthony
Steve Anthony
Allen Bedell
Ken Bragg
Peggy Clark
Ray Dillon
Henry Gilbert
Rhonda Hunter
Allen Morgan
Jim Newberry
Wayne Owen

We understand that the Commission will soon determine whether to divide the remaining one-third of the 2 GHz mobile satellite service ("MSS") spectrum between TMI/TerreStar Networks Inc. ("TerreStar") and ICO Satellite Services ("ICO") or take another approach. Our hope is that the FCC will move quickly on this issue and support the allocation of this spectrum on a "2x10" basis to these two satellite operators that have already demonstrated a commitment to compete and offer these services. Thank you for your consideration of our position on this important matter.

Sincerely,


J. Kelly Robbins
Executive Vice President

Cc: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Secretary of the Commission

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